

*GYRETES SINUATUS* LECONTE IN ARIZONA  
(COLEOPTERA: GYRINIDAE)

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Leech and Chandler (1956) remarked on the peculiar absence of recent California records for *Gyretes sinuatus* LeConte since LeConte reported it from the Colorado River near Fort Yuma, California. Also peculiar is the recent discovery of this beetle in extreme southeast Arizona, on the opposite side of the state from old Fort Yuma, and in central Arizona. The nearest known record to the east is Carlsbad, in southeast New Mexico (George Folkerts, pers. comm.).

Six collections, totaling 18 specimens, of *Gyretes sinuatus* have been made in 2 Arizona counties in recent years: AZ: COCHISE COUNTY: Cottonwood Canyon, 33 miles east of Douglas, 17-VII-73, at light, S. McCleve (4); Guadalupe Canyon, 8-VIII-68, 4200 ft., V. D. Roth (1); Guadalupe Canyon, 31-VII-75, at light, S. McCleve (7); Guadalupe Canyon, 2-VIII-77, at light, S. McCleve (1); San Bernardino Ranch, 14-VII-75, at light, S. McCleve (1); and GILA COUNTY: Highway 87 at East Verde River, 3 miles north of Payson, 20-VI-77, George Folkerts and field class (4).

Cottonwood Canyon is dry during most of the year except for stock tanks. Guadalupe Canyon (about 10 miles due south of Cottonwood Canyon) arises in New Mexico, traverses 2 or 3 miles of the extreme southeast corner of Arizona, and enters the state of Sonora, Mexico. Permanent water in Guadalupe Canyon, besides the usual stock tanks, is apparently limited to short stretches only a few inches deep in the New Mexico (upstream) portion of the canyon. The San Bernardino Ranch (about 13 miles due west of Guadalupe Canyon) has permanent water, but only 1 of the 18 specimens was collected there. Whether this species is able to complete its development here, or invades this portion of Cochise County during the summer rainy season, is unknown. Its apparent absence from the Chiricahua Mountains, only a few miles to the northwest, is especially puzzling.

The most significant record is Folkerts' capture of 4 beetles in the East Verde River in Gila County, about 170 miles northwest of the Cochise County collections. His collection date, in mid-June, is the earliest of all those listed above and the only one that precedes (by about 2 weeks) the onset of the summer rainy season, when migratory dispersal flights of water beetles would be expected. Also, these beetles were collected in a live stream under a bank overhang, a microhabitat typical for this species in the eastern U. S. Although immature forms or teneral adults have not been collected, it seems likely that this species is a permanent resident of the East Verde River.

I wish to thank Dr. Vincent Roth, Southwest Research Station, Portal, AZ, for permission to include his record, and especially Dr. George Folkerts, Department of Zoology-Entomology, Auburn University, Auburn, AL, for identifying this species for me, for donating specimens, for reading this note and making suggestions, and other generousities.

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CONCERNING *APHODIUS AEGROTUS* HORN  
AND *APHODIUS GEOMYSI* CARTWRIGHT

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R. E. Woodruff, 1973:83, placed *Aphodius geomysi* Cartwright, 1939:356, in synonymy with *Aphodius aegrotus* Horn, 1870:127. Robert D. Gordon, 1977:8, accepted this synonymy.

For the following reasons I believe this placement to be in error. First, *Aphodius geomysi* has been taken only in Florida in the burrows of *Geomys pinetis* or at lights in the vicinity of such burrows. Second, *Aphodius aegrotus* was described from a single specimen collected in North Carolina, and no *Geomys* are known from north of the Savannah River. Third, the size of *aegrotus* was given as 4 mm. *A. geomysi* measures from 4.2 to 5.0 mm. Fourth, the mesosternum of *aegrotus* was said to be "flat." In *geomysi* the mesosternum is carinate between the coxae. Fifth, the color of *geomysi* is uniform or concolorous; in *aegrotus* the original description states the elytra are paler than the head and pronotum, and the sides of the pronotum paler than the disc. Therefore, I believe the 2 species should be considered separate and distinct.

Unfortunately the holotype of *A. aegrotus* Horn has been lost or destroyed. It cannot be found in either the Philadelphia Academy collection or in the Museum of Comparative Zoology collection. Although the 3 specimens remaining in the Horn Collection under the name *aegrotus* are conspecific with *geomysi*, they were all collected in Florida and added at a later date.

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